Key Indian National Congress (INC) Sessions (1885–1947)

Year	Place	President	Main Theme / Key Resolution	Significance / Importance	Brief Keywords
1885 *	**Bombay**	**W. C. Bonnerjee**	Foundation and Objectives	**First session** (attended by 72 delegates). Outlined the objectives of the Congress to promote political and national unity.	**INC Foundation; First Session**
1886	Calcutta	Dadabhai Naoroji	Merger of National Conference	The National Conference merged with the INC.	**National Conference Merger**
1887	Madras	**Syed Badruddin Tyabji**	Appeal to Muslims	Became the **first Muslim President**.	**First Muslim President**
1888	Allahabad	**George Yule**	First Non-Indian President	Became the **first English (non-Indian) President**.	**First English President**
1896 *	Calcutta	Rahimtullah M. Sayani	National Song Recital	**'Vande Mataram'** was sung for the **first time**.	**'Vande Mataram' Sung**
1905	Benaras	Gopal Krishna Gokhale	Swadeshi Movement	Condemned the Partition of Bengal and proclaimed the **Swadeshi movement**.	**Anti-Partition; Swadeshi Formalised**
1906 *	Calcutta	**Dadabhai Naoroji**	Demand for Swaraj	Adopted resolutions on **Swaraj** (Self-Government), Boycott, Swadeshi, and National Education. The word 'Swaraj' was first used.	**'Swaraj' Demand; Four Resolutions**

1907 ⚔	**Surat**	Rash Behari Ghosh	**Surat Split**	The Congress split into two factions: the **Moderates** and the **Extremists**.	**Moderates vs. Extremists; Split**
1911 *	Calcutta	Bishan Narayan Dar	National Anthem Recital	**'Jana Gana Mana'** was sung for the **first time**.	**'Jana Gana Mana' Sung**
1916 💡	**Lucknow**	Ambica Charan Mazumdar	**Lucknow Pact** & Reunion	**Reunion** of the Moderates and Extremists. Signed the **Lucknow Pact** with the **Muslim League**.	**Lucknow Pact; Factions Reunited**
1917 *	Calcutta	**Annie Besant**	**First Woman President**	Became the **first woman** to preside over an INC session.	**First Woman President**
1920 (Spl. Session)	Calcutta	Lala Lajpat Rai	Non-Cooperation Resolution	Resolution supporting the **Non-Cooperation Movement** was passed.	**Non-Cooperation Resolution**
1924 *	**Belgaum**	**M. K. Gandhi**	Only Session with Gandhi	The **only session** presided over by **Mahatma Gandhi**.	**Gandhi's Only Presidency**
1925 *	Kanpur	**Sarojini Naidu**	**First Indian Woman President**	Became the **first Indian woman** to preside.	**First Indian Woman President**
1929 💡	**Lahore**	**Jawaharlal Nehru**	**Poorna Swaraj**	Declared **'Poorna Swaraj'** (**Complete Independence**) as the ultimate goal.	**Poorna Swaraj; Complete Independence**
1931 💡	**Karachi**	**Vallabhbhai Patel**	**Fundamental Rights**	Passed resolutions on **Fundamental Rights and National Economic Programme**. Endorsed the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.	**Fundamental Rights; Economic Plan**

1937	**Faizpur**	Jawaharlal Nehru	**First Rural Session**	The **first session** to be held in a **village**.	**First Rural Session**
1939 ⚔	Tripuri	Dr. Rajendra Prasad (after resignation)	**Tripuri Crisis**	**Subhas Chandra Bose** resigned due to differences.	**Bose Resignation; Tripuri Crisis**
1940	Ramgarh	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad	Continuation of Struggle	**Maulana Azad** remained President until 1946.	**Civil Disobedience; Azad Longest Term**
1946	**Meerut**	**Acharya Kripalani**	Pre-Independence Session	The **last session before India gained independence**.	**Last Pre-Independence Session**

Key to Emojis:

- * - **Firsts and Foundational Sessions** (e.g., First President, First Vande Mataram/Jana Gana Mana, First Woman/Indian Woman President).
- 💡 - **Major Policy/Goal Shifts** (e.g., Swaraj, Poorna Swaraj, Fundamental Rights).
- ⚔ - **Conflict/Significant Political Change** (e.g., Surat Split, Tripuri Crisis).